

Bipartisan legislation estimated to save the taxpayer \$125 billion

Washington DC – Today, Congressman John Adler voted on two bipartisan measures to reduce waste, fraud and abuse costing the American taxpayer an estimated \$125 billion. The two bills approved by the House improve accountability on improper payments by federal agencies and reform defense acquisition spending. Congressman Adler, who yesterday voted to block an automatic Congressional pay raise, has continually stressed the need to cut excessive government spending and pay down the federal deficit.

"As middle class families, seniors and small businesses cut down on costs, so should Washington," Congressman Adler said. "This sort of waste is outrageous, especially while so many families struggle with a tough economy. Congress should continue to focus on commonsense, bipartisan solutions to reduce the federal deficit."

The Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act would increase oversight on the spending of federal agencies. Improper payments by federal agencies are a major problem. According to OMB, federal agencies were estimated to have made nearly \$98 billion in improper payments in FY 2009. This legislation would help identify, reduce and eliminate improper payments, as well as recover lost funds that federal agencies have spent improperly. Specifically, the bill contains provisions to increase transparency by lowering the improper payment threshold for agencies, require agencies to develop action plans to avoid future waste, recover overpayments, and hold agencies accountable.

The IMPROVE Acquisition Act, introduced by local Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ) and Rep. Mike Conaway (R-TX), cleans up defense acquisition spending, saving taxpayers an estimated \$27 billion a year and expediting the process to get the necessary equipment to our service men and women. The bill cleans up waste, fraud and abuse in the defense acquisition system through four key common-sense reforms: building a better accountability system, improving the management of the acquisition workforce, creating an auditable financial management system at DOD, and expanding and strengthening the industrial base to enhance competition and gain access to more technology.

Congressman Adler has continually stressed the need for fiscal responsibility, voting for federal "Pay-As-You-Go" rules and cutting excessive federal spending, including opposing a \$1.1 trillion 2010 spending bill, which included spending levels 12 percent higher than 2009.